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# Forest Service NEWS



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## PLAN FOR SIUSLAW NATIONAL FOREST RELEASED TODAY

PORTLAND, March 7--The Land and Resource Management Plan for the Siuslaw National Forest was released today, according to Pacific Northwest Regional Forester John Butruille.

"The release of this plan and its supporting documents culminates a decade of intensive planning on the Siuslaw National Forest, and brings to seven the number of National Forests in the Region with completed plans," Butruille said.

The plan, prepared in accordance with the National Forest Management Act of 1976, will guide all natural resource management activities on the Siuslaw National Forest for the next 10 to 15 years. The plan supersedes all previous plans for the forest, except for the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area Management Plan and the Cascade Head Scenic-Research Area Management Plan.

"My decision is to adopt Alternative E as the plan for the Siuslaw National Forest," Butruille said.

"Alternative E is a modification of the Preferred Alternative from the draft environmental impact statement; modifications were made as a result of new information, public response, and interaction with many groups. The State of Oregon was particularly helpful as we came to grips with some of the more difficult issues. I am very pleased that we were able to find many areas of agreement with Governor Goldschmidt."

The plan provides for timber harvest from about 5,200 acres annually, which will average 335 MMBF of timber each year, a moderate increase from the 290 MMBF average harvest for the years 1979-1988. Very little of this harvest will come from old-growth timber. It is estimated that the forest presently has about 33,800 acres of old growth, and about 31,000 acres will remain at the end of ten years.

A high level of protection will be continued for areas with a high risk of landslides, and for municipal watersheds. The forest also will continue activities to improve anadromous fish habitat through such practices



## **Siuslaw Plan Released--continued**

as streamside buffers and improved road-building techniques, and will accelerate site-specific structural improvement projects for fish.

To benefit wildlife, the forest will provide 29 Spotted Owl Habitat Areas of 2,000 acres each, 23 Bald Eagle sites of 125 acres each, 65 sites for marten and 22 sites for pileated woodpeckers in areas with a long (100 year) rotation. To provide elk forage, the forest will create 200 acres of permanent meadows in the next 10 years, and timber harvest methods will ensure that adequate levels of snags remain on the forest to benefit cavity-nesting birds.

Also, the plan calls for the construction of 16 miles of new wilderness trails on the forest, the establishment of undeveloped areas in Wassen Creek and Boulder Creek (adjacent to the Drift Creek Wilderness), protection of scenic values along major highways, and the establishment of two new Special Interest Areas (Kentucky Falls and Mt. Hebo). Also, the Cape Perpetua Special Interest Area will be enlarged.

"My decision may be appealed within 90 days," Butruille said. "But I would encourage anyone who has concerns about the plan or the Environmental Impact Statement to contact Wendy Herrett, the Siuslaw Forest Supervisor in Corvallis, and discuss their concerns first. It may be possible to resolve a concern or misunderstanding in a less formal manner."

"I'm very pleased with the plan," Herrett said. "This plan recognizes the importance of the Siuslaw National Forest to the Oregon Coast experience, and also recognizes the Forest's contributions to the economy. It does an excellent job of striking a balance between varied and sometimes conflicting demands."

"I'd like to reiterate the Regional Forester's invitation to people or organizations who take exception to something found in the plan and who may feel motivated to file an appeal," Herrett said. "Let's talk about your concerns. We may be able to resolve them informally. Call me first."

Herrett's telephone number at the Siuslaw National Forest is (503) 750-7000.

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